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ABSTRACT

This report presents preliminary findings from a mail survey of all optometrists licensed to practice in the State of Alaska. The survey was conducted in 1973 by the International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry as part of a national endeavor to collect data on all optometrists in the United States. Since there was a 100 percent response, the professional characteristics of all of the optomertrists in the state are described in the report. Tabulated data show the number of: (1) optometrists in patient care, (2) active optometrists by age and sex, (3) active optometrists by school and year of graduation, (4) optometrists by activity status and age, (5) optometrists by principal form of employment and age, (6) practicing optometrists by years of practice and use of supplementary personnel, (7) practicing optometrists by primary specialty and age, and (8) active optometrists by type of activity and age. A sample questionnaire is included in the report. (EB)

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LICENSED OPTOMETRISTS IN ALASKA 1973

SE017 371

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LICENSED OPTOMETRISTS

IN

ALASKA

1973

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service Health Resources Administration
Bureau of Health Resources Development
Division of Manpower Intelligence

September 1973

CONTENTS

Page

Introduction v

Highlights 1

Table

1. Number of Optometrists by County of Primary Practice . . . 3

2. Number and Percent Distribution of Active Optometrists by Age and Sex 4

3. Number of Active Optometrists by School and Year of Graduation 5

4. Number of Optometrists by Activity Status and Age 6

5. Number of Active Optometrists by Principal Form of Employment and Age 7

6. Number of Practicing Optometrists by Years in Practice and Use of Supplementary Personnel 8

7. Number of Practicing Optometrists by Primary Specialty and Age 9

8. Number of Active Optometrists by Type of Activity and Age 10

Sample Questionnaire 11

INTRODUCTION

The International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry in 1973, conducted a mail survey of all optometrists licensed to practice in the State of Alaska. The survey was conducted concurrently with the optometrists' reregistration with the State Licensing Board.

This report presents preliminary findings from the survey, as furnished by optometrists in the State who completed and returned questionnaires. All of the 16 optometrists in the State who were sent questionnaires responded. Thus the professional characteristics of all of the optometrists in the State are described here.

The survey of optometrists in Alaska is part of a national endeavor to collect data on all optometrists in the United States. Optometric licensing boards in all States are utilizing the same questionnaire to survey optometrists licensed in their respective States. As data collection is completed for each State, similar individual State reports will be issued. A more comprehensive national report will be published after data collection is completed for all States. The Division of Manpower Intelligence, Bureau of Health Resources Development, Health Resources Administration, is coordinating this national survey program done under contract, to assist the profession in developing a data base for optometric manpower. The goal is to make basic data on health manpower available, at the earliest date possible, to States, counties, planning agencies, and other interested parties.

For purposes of this survey, active optometrists are defined as those currently in patient care (optometric practice), teaching, research, and administration. Those categorized as full-time are in practice 30 or more hours per week. Practicing optometrists include only those optometrists engaged in patient care. The questionnaire used in this survey is included as an appendix to this report. It should be noted that all items in the tables that follow are comparable to those found on the questionnaire, from a definitional standpoint. In some tables, asterisks may be used to denote data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

The preparation of this report has been made possible through the cooperation of the entire profession of optometry, the State Licensing Board, the Manpower Resources and Requirements Branch of the Division of Manpower Intelligence, and the Optometric Manpower Resources Project, Suite 206, 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

HIGHLIGHTS

* In the State of Alaska, all optometrists were reported as being active, i.e., engaged in patient care, teaching, research, and administration. Of the total number of optometrists in the State 100 percent, were in patient care.

* The largest number of active optometrists in a single Division in Alaska were reported in Anchorage: 6 optometrists, or 38 percent of all those in the State.

* Fifty-six percent of the active optometrists were under 40 years of age; 38 percent were between 40 and 59 years; and 6 percent were 60 years or older. Of the respondents, 6 percent were female.

* The two schools graduating the largest number of active optometrists in the State -- 5 or 31 percent each -- were Southern College of Optometry and Pacific University College of Optometry.

* All of the active optometrists were working 30 or more hours a week.

* In the State of Alaska, 75 percent of the active optometrists were self-employed, with 50 percent in solo practice. Of all employed optometrists, the greatest number were employed by the Federal Government (Military).

* Eighty-eight percent of the practicing optometrists, i.e. those engaged in patient care, reported that they employed supplementary personnel to assist them.

* Of the practicing optometrists reporting a specialty, the greatest number reported Contact Lenses.

* While all of the 16 active optometrists in the State were in optometric practice, 1 was reported in teaching, 1 in administration, and 1 in the other optometric activities.

TABLE 1.

NUMBER OF OPTOMETRISTS BY DIVISION OF PRIMARY PRACTICE : ALASKA, 1973

DIVISION OF PRIMARY PRACTICE	TOTAL OPTOMETRISTS	ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS 1/	OPTOMETRISTS IN PATIENT CARE
TOTAL	16	16	16
ANCHORAGE DIVISION	6	6	6
FAIRBANKS DIVISION	5	5	5
JUNEAU DIVISION	2	2	2
KEAI-COOK INLET DIV	1	1	1
KETCHIKAN DIVISION	1	1	1
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA DV	1	1	1

1/ INCLUDES OPTOMETRISTS ENGAGED IN PATIENT CARE, TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND ADMINISTRATION.

Table 2.

NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS BY AGE AND SEX: Alaska, 1973

Age in Years	Number of Active Optometrists			Percent Distribution		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
ALL AGES....	16	15	1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 30.....	4	4	0	25.0	26.7	0.0
30-39.....	5	5	0	31.3	33.3	0.0
40-49.....	4	*	*	25.0	*	*
50-59.....	2	*	*	12.5	*	*
60-69.....	1	1	0	6.3	6.7	0.0
70 and over.....	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 3.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY SCHOOL AND YEAR OF GRADUATION: Alaska, 1973

School of Graduation	All Active Optometrists 1/	Year of Graduation					
		Before 1930	1930-1939	1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1970 or Later
ALL SCHOOLS..	16	0	0	0	4	8	2
Ohio State.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois.....	3	0	0	0	0	2	0
Southern.....	5	0	0	0	2	2	1
Pacific.....	5	0	0	0	2	3	0
Houston.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indiana.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
California (Berkely)....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pennsylvania...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Massachusetts..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Illinois.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Chicago (Monroe).....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Needles.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochester.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montreal.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waterloo.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Reported.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Includes those optometrists who did not report year of graduation.

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 4.

NUMBER OF OPTOMETRISTS, BY ACTIVITY STATUS AND AGE:
Alaska, 1973

Activity Status	All Ages 1/	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
TOTAL.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
ACTIVE.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Working 30 or more hours.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Working less than 30 hours.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INACTIVE.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retired.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unemployed.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recent graduate 2/..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other unemployed....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All other inactive.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

2/ Graduate of optometry school within past 12 months.

Table 5.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY PRINCIPAL FORM OF EMPLOYMENT AND AGE: Alaska, 1973

Principal Form of Employment	All Ages 1/	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
TOTAL.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
SELF EMPLOYED.....	12	2	3	4	2	1	0
Solo practice.....	8	1	1	3	2	1	0
Partnership.....	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Group.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
EMPLOYED.....	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
Professional corporation.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Federal government (Military).....	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Federal government (Non-military)....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State or local government.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other optometrist...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmologist.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physician.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm or manufacturer.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-profit organizatn or institution....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multidisciplinary grp practice.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 6.

NUMBER OF PRACTICING OPTOMETRISTS, BY YEARS IN PRACTICE AND USE OF SUPPLEMENTARY PERSONNEL: Alaska, 1973

Years in Practice	Optometrists in Patient Care		
	Total	Employing Supplementary Personnel 1/	
		Number	Percent
ALL LENGTHS OF PRACTICE.....	16	14	87.5
Less than 10.....	6	5	83.3
10-19.....	6	5	83.3
20-29.....	4	4	100.0
30-39.....	0	0	0.0
40 or more.....	0	0	0.0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0.0

1/ Includes secretaries, receptionists, paroptometric personnel, dispensing opticians, optical and contact lenses technicians.

Table 7.

NUMBER OF PRACTICING OPTOMETRISTS, BY PRIMARY SPECIALTY AND AGE: Alaska, 1973

Primary Specialty	Optometrists in Patient Care						
		Age in Years					
	All Ages 1/	Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
ALL SPECIALTIES.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Contact lenses....	9	3	3	2	0	1	0
Visual training...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subnormal vision..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Developmental vision.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Occupational vision.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aniseikonic therapy.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other 2/.....	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not Reported.....	3	1	0	1	1	0	0

1/ Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

2/ Includes those optometrists reporting 100 percent of their time spent in general practice.

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 8.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY AND AGE: Alaska, 1973

Type of Activity	All Ages 1/	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
ALL ACTIVITIES 2/...	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Optometric practice.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Teaching.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Research.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administration....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

2/ Numbers may add to more than total as optometrists may report more than one activity.

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

O.M.B. No. 68-S72031
Approval Expires 12-31-73

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS
OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY, INC.

National Census
Optometric Manpower Resources

NAME: Dr. (1-15) Last , (16-26) First MI (27)

PRIMARY PLACE OF PRACTICE
(or Residence if not practicing optometry)

Number and Street (28-47)

City

State Zip Code (48-52)

Social Security Number (53-61)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

ST (62 63)
CO (64 65 66)
CT (67 68 69 70)
SM (71 72 73 74)

(75-90) 1. In which States do you currently hold an ACTIVE LICENSE to practice Optometry?

(91-92) 2. Present State of Residence: _____

(93-94) 3. Year of Birth: _____

(95) 4. Sex: 1 _____ Male
2 _____ Female

(96) 5. Racial/Ethnic Category:

1 _____ White/Caucasian
2 _____ Black/Negro
3 _____ Japanese/Chinese
4 _____ Other Asian
5 _____ Indian/Eskimo/Aleut
6 _____ All Other _____ (Specify)

Also mark if applicable:

7 _____ Mexican American
8 _____ Puerto Rican
9 _____ Other Latin American

(97-98) 6. Graduated from optometry school in 19____ (Year)

(99-100) Name of School:

01 ___ Ohio State	07 ___ California (Berkeley)	13 ___ Columbia
02 ___ Illinois	08 ___ Los Angeles	14 ___ Needles
03 ___ Southern	09 ___ Pennsylvania	15 ___ Rochester
04 ___ Pacific	10 ___ Massachusetts	16 ___ Montreal
05 ___ Houston	11 ___ Northern Illinois	17 ___ Waterloo
06 ___ Indiana	12 ___ Chicago (Monroe)	18 ___ OTHER _____

Degrees Earned in addition to Optometric: (Check all that apply and Indicate in what field.)

(101) 1 ___ Doctorate _____

(102) 2 ___ Master's _____

(103) 3 ___ Bachelor's _____

(104) 4 ___ Associate _____

(105) 5 ___ Other _____

(106) 6 ___ None

HIGHEST Level of FORMAL Education Attained: (Check appropriate boxes in grid)

	YEARS COMPLETED / COLLEGE	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
(107)	Pre-Optometry							
(108)	Optometry							
(109)	Post-Optometry							

(110) 7. Are you currently active in optometry? (Include patient care, teaching, and administration.)

1 ___ Yes, full time.

2 ___ Yes, part time.

→ Proceed to Item 8

3 ___ No, retired.

4 ___ No, unemployed (recent graduate of optometry school)

5 ___ No, unemployed (not recent graduate of optometry school)

6 ___ No, not active in optometry.

In what field are you active?_____

STOP! Remainder of questionnaire does not apply. Please return questionnaire.

8. PRINCIPAL Form of employment:

(111-112)

01 ____ Self-employed - Solo practice

02 ____ Self-employed - Partnership practice

03 ____ Self-employed - Group practice

04 ____ Employed by professional corporation established after 1969

If in a partnership, group practice, or corporation, how many OPTOMETRISTS are there in the partnership COUNTING YOURSELF? ____

(113-114)

05 ____ Employed by - Federal government _____ *(Specify)*
(Military, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, etc.)

06 ____ Employed by - Federal Government (non-military) _____ *(Specify)*

07 ____ Employed by - State or local government _____ *(Specify)*

08 ____ Employed by - Optometrist(s)

09 ____ Employed by - Ophthalmologist(s)

10 ____ Employed by - Physician(s) other than ophthalmologist(s)

11 ____ Employed by - Firm or manufacturer (profit making) _____ *(Specify)*

12 ____ Employed by - Non-profit organization or institution _____ *(Specify)*

13 ____ Employed in Multidisciplinary Group Practice _____ *(Specify)*

14 ____ OTHER *(Specify)* _____

9. Approximately what PERCENT of your time do you usually spend in each of the following activities?

(115-117) 1 _____ % Optometric practice

(118-120) 2 _____ % Teaching (as related to optometry)

(121-123) (124) 3 _____ % Optometric research: ☐ Clinical, ☐ Basic science, ☐ Other

(125-127) 4 _____ % Administration (in schools or colleges, associations, etc.)

(128-130) 5 _____ % OTHER *(Specify)* _____

100%

If ZERO % of your time is spent in OPTOMETRIC PRACTICE, STOP! and return questionnaire.
Otherwise, continue.

(131-132) 10. Practice Optometry: _____ Weeks per year (excluding vacations)

(133-134) _____ Hours per week (available for patient care)

(135-136) 11. Years in practice: _____

(137-138) 12. In what YEAR do you intend to retire? _____

13. How many CLOCK hours of personal attendance did you devote to continuing education during the past 12 months?

(139-140) In courses sponsored by Schools or Colleges? _____ Hours

(141-142) In other sponsored educational meetings? _____ Hours

14. PRIMARY Specialty: (check only one and indicate % of time spent in that Specialty)

(143) 1____ Contact Lenses ____ % 5____ Occupational Vision ____ %

2____ Visual Training/Orthoptics ____ % 6____ Aniseikonic Therapy ____ %

(144-146) 3____ Subnormal Vision/Low Vision ___ % 7____ OTHER _____ (Specify) , ____ %

4____ Developmental Vision ___ %

(147-150) 5. Number of VISION ANALYSES performed by YOU in the last 12 months: _____

(151-155) 16. How many individuals do you estimate are under your care? _____

(156) 17. In your optometric practice, do you EMPLOY supplementary personnel to assist you?

1____ YES 2____ NO

Please indicate below, the NUMBER of personnel in each category that MOST CLOSELY describes their duties. (Indicate only one category for each individual)

	FOR YOU ALONE		FOR YOU & ASSOCIATES	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Secretary, Receptionist	____ (157)	____ (166)	____ (175-176)	____ (193-194)
*** Paraoptometric Personnel				
Grad. 1 yr Paraopt. program	____ (158)	____ (167)	____ (177-178)	____ (195-196)
Grad. 2 yr Paraopt. program	____ (159)	____ (168)	____ (179-180)	____ (197-198)
Received formal training but did not complete program	____ (160)	____ (169)	____ (181-182)	____ (199-200)
Office trained only	____ (161)	____ (170)	____ (183-184)	____ (201-202)
Dispensing Optician	____ (162)	____ (171)	____ (185-186)	____ (203-204)
Optical Technician (shopman)	____ (163)	____ (172)	____ (187-188)	____ (205-206)
Contact Lens Technician	____ (164)	____ (173)	____ (189-190)	____ (207-208)
Other _____ (Specify)	____ (165)	____ (174)	____ (191-192)	____ (209-210)

***Anyone who performs technical duties beyond those performed by a secretary and/or receptionist, and excluding Dispensing Optician, Optical Technician, Contact Lens Technician

In your optometric practice, do you utilize the OUTSIDE services of:

(211) Dispensing Optician(s)? 1____ YES 2____ NO

(212) Optical Laboratory(s)? 1____ YES 2____ NO

(213) Contact Lens Lab(s)/Technician(s)? 1____ YES 2____ NO

18. (214-215) If you have made entries under FOR YOU & ASSOCIATES in the full-time or part-time columns in Item 17 above, how many associates, COUNTING YOURSELF, share these personnel? _____ .

(216-217) Of these associates, how many are OPTOMETRISTS, COUNTING YOURSELF? _____

COMMENTS: